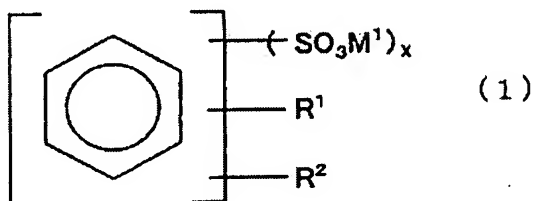
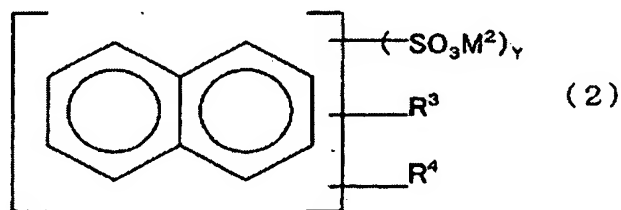


IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An ink composition, characterized by containing water, metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye, and aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof represented by undermentioned general formula (1) and/or (2): [[.]]



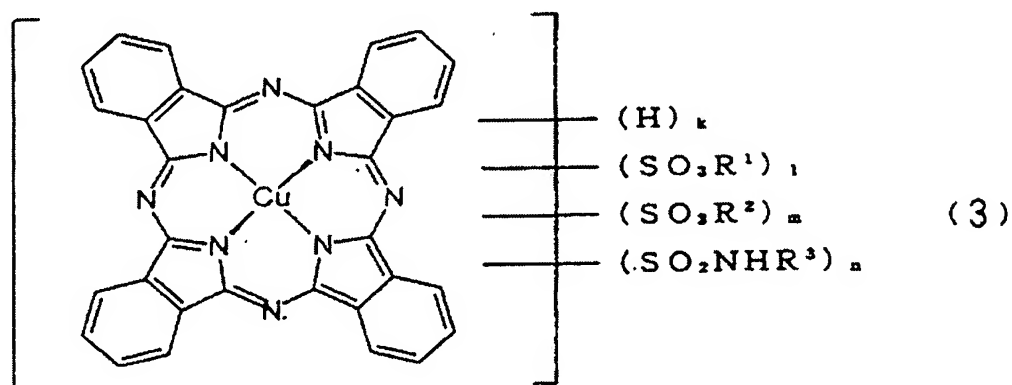
(In the formula, wherein  $M^1$  represents a lithium counter ion forming a salt,  $x$  represents an integer from 1 to 3, and  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may be the same or different;  $\rightarrow$ )



(In the formula, wherein  $M^2$  represents a lithium counter ion forming a salt,  $y$  represents an integer from 1 to 4, and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  may be the same or different.)

Claim 2 (currently amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein

the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye is a copper phthalocyanine type dye represented by undermentioned formula (3):



(In the formula, wherein  $R^1$  represents H, an alkali metal or  $-NH_4$ ,  $R^2$  represents an alkali metal or  $-NH_4$ , and  $R^3$  represents H, an optionally substituted alkyl group or an optionally substituted aryl group; moreover, k, l and n each represents a natural number from 0 to 3, and m represents a natural number from 1 to 4, and  $k+l+m+n = 4$ .)

Claim 3 (currently amended) The ink composition according to claim 2, wherein the copper phthalocyanine type dye is C.I. Direct Blue 86, 87 and/or 199.

Claim 4.(currently amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye is a dye for which the absorption spectrum in the visible region (400 to 800 nm) has a maximum absorption peak at a wavelength in a range of 590 to 650 nm.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye is a dye for which the absorption

spectrum in the visible region (400 to 800 nm) has a maximum absorption peak at a wavelength in a range of 590 to 615 nm.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye is a dye for which the absorption spectrum in the visible region (400 to 800 nm) has a maximum absorption peak at a wavelength in a range of 590 to 605 nm.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof has two sulfo groups.

Claim 8. (original) The ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof is at least one selected from the group consisting of benzene-1,3-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-1,6-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-2,6-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-2,7-disulfonic acid, and naphthalene-1,3,6-trisulfonic acid, and salts thereof.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the salt of the aromatic compound having a sulfo group is an alkali metal salt.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1,

containing 0.1 to 10 wt% of the aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof relative to the total amount of the ink composition.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the content ratio between the metal phthalocyanine ~~type~~ cyan dye and the aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof is in a range of 1:0.1 to 1:10.

Claim 12. (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, further containing a nonionic surfactant.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The ink composition according to claim 12, wherein the nonionic surfactant is an acetylene glycol ~~type~~ surfactant.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 12, containing 0.1 to 5 wt% of the nonionic surfactant relative to the total amount of the ink composition.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, further containing a penetrating agent.

Claim 16. (original) The ink composition according to claim 15, wherein the penetrating agent is a glycol ether.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the ink composition has a pH at ~~20°C~~ 20°C in a range of 8.0 to 10.5.

Claim 18. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An ink jet recording method comprising providing the ink composition according to claim 1 and ejecting droplets of the ink composition onto a recording medium ~~, used in an ink jet recording method.~~

Claim 19. (original) The ink composition according to claim 18, wherein the ink jet recording method is a recording method using an ink jet head that forms ink droplets through mechanical deformation of electrostrictive elements.

Claim 20. (previously presented) An ink cartridge, characterized by comprising the ink composition according claim 1.

Claim 21. (currently amended) An ink jet recording method, comprising providing the ink composition according to claim 2, and carrying out recording by discharging droplets of ~~an~~ the ink composition and attaching the droplets to a recording medium, ~~the ink jet recording method characterized by using the ink composition according to claim 1 as the ink composition.~~

Claim 22. (currently amended) A recorded article produced ~~, characterized by being obtained by recording using~~ depositing the ink composition according to claim 1 onto a recording medium.